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swete lefdi"), which could not have been better translated than "meine liebe Frau." It would hardly seem necessary to point out that this is not to be understood in the sense of "my dear wife." Ten Brink's rendering (in his *Geschichte der Englischen Litteratur*, Vol. i, pp. 257 f.): "meine liebe Herrin," is less liable to be misinterpreted, but it lacks the flavor of antiquity, and the charm of association, happily lingering in the phrase preferred by Brandl. (Cf. 'Kloster unserer lieben Frauen'; 'Liebfrauenkirche'; etc.) See *Deutsches Wörterbuch* von Jacob Grimm und Wilhelm Grimm, vol. iv, 1, 1, pp. 71 ff.; etc., etc.—That the author of *Ein gutes Gebet von unserer Frau* (cf. Brandl) addresses Saint Mary in his song, *meine liebe Frau*, is an illustration of the "individuelle Unmittelbarkeit," which characterizes the expression of his devotional fervor.

Brandl's concise *résumé* contains no word that is not taken directly from the poem.

FREDERICK KLAEBER.

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GEORG BRANDES' NORWEGIAN.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—The publishers' notices of Archer's translation of Georg Brandes' work on Shakspeare, recently issued, state that it is translated from the Norwegian. As Brandes was 'born, bred and brought up' in Copenhagen, it is hard to understand what is meant by this statement. It almost looks as if some Norwegian, not satisfied with claiming the Danish written in Norway as Norwegian, had tried to annex the language of the Danish capital itself. It is as reasonable to call the language of Brandes Norwegian, as it would be to call the language of Matthew Arnold American. There is at least a show of reason in the claim that Ibsen writes Norwegian; there can be none at all in extending the claim to the foremost living writer of Danish prose.

DANIEL KILHAM DODGE.

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FANG MEANING TALON.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—Another instance of 'fang' in the sense of 'claw' is to be found in *Moby Dick*; or, *the Whale*, by Herman Melville, N. Y., 1871, p. 544.

"when beholding the tranquil beauty and brilliancy of the ocean's skin, one forgets the tiger heart that pants beneath it; and would not willingly remember, that this velvet paw but conceals a remorseless fang."

ARCHIBALD MACMECHAN.

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MILTON-VONDEL.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—The readers of Mod. Lang. Notes will be glad to learn that the Continental Publishing Co., 25 Park Place, N. Y., are publishing an English metrical translation of Vondel's *Lucifer*. The translation is by Mr. Leonard Charles Van Noppen, who was born in Holland, but who has lived since childhood in North Carolina. He was educated at the University of North Carolina, returning shortly after graduation to his native land to perfect himself in the knowledge of Dutch. Having read more than once Mr. Van Noppen's Ms. of the *Lucifer*, I can testify to the metrical skill which the author has shown, and to the fresh light which his version has thrown on the Milton-Vondel controversy.

Professor Kalf, of the University of Utrecht, pronounces the translation excellent in every way; and Professor Jan Ten Brink, of the University of Leiden, declares Mr. Van Noppen's version "worthy the great genius of Vondel." The work will contain a bibliography.

C. ALPHONSO SMITH.

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EUGÉNIE GRANDET.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—I notice in your number for March, vol. xiii, 1898, a letter signed Mary K. Chapin, in which the writer comments on a passage in an article on *Eugénie Grandet* which had appeared in MOD. LANG. NOTES for June, vol. xii, 1897.

Evidently the interpretation which Mary K. Chapin gives to "Envoyer voir si j'y suis," namely, "sending on a wild goose chase," is one that fits the context. Not having *Eugénie Grandet* at hand, I cannot verify that; but I can say most positively that the expression is one very commonly used among the French-speaking people of Belgium with exactly that meaning.

Whether the phrase has disappeared from the popular speech in France I cannot say, though it seems reasonable to suppose that it is still in use there. It may be, of course, a survival such as is so frequently found in Flanders and Belgium of obsolete French, that is *Septante* and *Nonante* for *soixante dix*, etc.

At any rate, in Belgium a person wishing to be relieved for a moment of the presence of a child says: "Allez au corridor voir si j'y suis."

Naturally, dictionaries do not throw much light on such matters.

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